

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                    1. (Currently amended)        A dispersible dry powder for pulmonary delivery  
2        ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent  
3        ~~dispersed throughout in~~ aerogel particles ~~which are soluble in human pulmonary surfactant~~  
4                    wherein said particles have a density and particle size to permit them to reach the  
5        alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation.

1                    2-16. (canceled)

1                    17. (new)        The powder of claim 1 wherein said particles deliver said agent  
2        into the bloodstream of said subject.

1                    18. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle is prepared  
2        from an aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

1                    19. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle contains pores  
2        of about 1 to 100 nm.

1                    20. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a surface  
2        area of about 100 to 1,200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1                    21. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a density  
2        of about 0.1 to 0.001 g/cc.

1                    22. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a particle  
2        size of about submicron up to about 3 microns.

1                    23. (New)        The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle is a carrier  
2        selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

1                   24. (New)     The powder of claim 1, prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic  
2 agent with a gel-forming material selected from the group consisting of sugars and  
3 carbohydrates.

1                   25. (New)     The powder of claim 1, prepared by the steps of (i) preparing  
2 porous gels of a carrier material which is soluble in pulmonary surfactant; (ii) soaking the porous  
3 gels in a solution of the therapeutic agent; (iii) removing the solvent and forming aerogels by  
4 supercritical drying; and (iv) converting the aerogels into powder.

1                   26. (New)     The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin.

1                   27. (New)     The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is  
2 methadone.

1                   28. (New)     The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is  
2 naltrexone.

1                   29. (New)     A method of treating a disease state responsive to treatment by a  
2 therapeutic agent comprising pulmonarily administering to a subject in need thereof a dispersible  
3 dry powder according to claim 1.

1                   30. (New)     The method of claim 29, wherein the powder is prepared from an  
2 aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

1                   31. (New)     The method of claim 30, wherein the powder is prepared from an  
2 aerogel prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic agent with a gel-forming material selected from  
3 the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

1                   32. (New)     A method of preparing a dry powder according to claim 1, said  
2 method comprising converting an aerogel comprising said therapeutic agent into particles having  
3 a particle size permitting them to reach the alveoli of a subject's lungs upon inhalation.

1                   33. (New)     A composition comprising the powder of claim 1.

1                   34. (New)     The composition of claim 33 further comprising a dispersant.

1                    35. (New)     The composition of claim 34 wherein said dispersant is a  
2 chlorofluoro compound.

1                    36. (New)     A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a subject, said  
2 method comprising administering to said subject a dispersible dry powder according to claim 1  
3 as an inhalant.

1                    37. (New)     A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to the bloodstream of a  
2 subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a dispersible dry powder according  
3 to claim 1 as an inhalant.

1                    38. (New)     A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a subject, said  
2 method comprising administering to said subject a composition according to claim 33 as an  
3 inhalant.

1                    39. (New)     The powder of claim 1 wherein said agent is adsorbed onto the  
2 structure of said particles.

1                    40. (New)     The powder of claim 1 wherein said particles are directly prepared  
2 from said therapeutic agent.

1                    41. (New)     The powder of claim 1 wherein the structure of said particles  
2 comprise said therapeutic agent.

1                    42. (New)     The powder of claim 1 wherein said powder is formulated for  
2 quick introduction into the bloodstream and controlled release thereafter.

1                    43. (New)     The powder of claim 1 wherein the powder is formulated for slow  
2 release.

44. (New) A dispersible dry powder for pulmonary delivery comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent and aerogel particles wherein said particles have a density and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation.